

comets are caught into this system or that
and compelled
to move through a settled orbit as
obediently as the most
respectable planet of them all. Besides,
every sun revolves
on its own axis and is moving through
space accompanied
by its family of planets, just as our own
sun is moving to-
wards the constellation Hercules. And so
to the human
spectator, ever since he began to reflect on
the marvels
of the nightly skies, the heavens have
always been the very
symbol and type of order, of harmony, of
the poise of many
in interdependence, each upon all and all
upon each.
Next comes the cooling of the af ore-
mentioned sundry
bodies by radiation of their heat into space
by degrees which
has brought, is bringing and will bring
each for a period to
'a temperate heat, such as that now
enjoyed by our earth.
Thus after many an aeon, those elements
which the earliest
science of man enumerated—fire, air, earth
and water, appear
on the scene of our globe. Then the
formation of mould
and soil and slime.
Then "comes the most important stage in
evolution.
Science sees atoms of inorganic matter
shifting 'into such
marvellous combinations as at last to
constitute that mys-

terious protoplasm, the physical basis of
life, an absolutely
new beginning in the process of evolution.
Why just this
combination of atoms should suddenly put
on that entirely
new set of characteristics which we call
life, science can form
no sort or kind of guess. There is a great
chasm between
inorganic or non-living and organic or
living matter which
no bridge of scientific thought can span.
No Newton can
ever make intelligible according to
mechanical causes the
germination of a single blade of grass. The
scientific man
meeting at every step of his progress this
strange apparition
of life, cannot account for how, whence or
what it is and is
awed and bewildered. Life is a mystery
and will ever re-
main a mystery to the mere mechanist, to
him who endeavours
to root out all notions of design or
intelligence in the operations